

### **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of April 17, 2008 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 33 and 41-43 have been amended, and claim 40 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 33-39 and 41-49 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 40-42 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, in order to place the claims in condition for allowance, independent claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 40. Further, claims 41-43 have been amended so as to correspond with amended claim 33. Therefore, in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 40, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 33-39 and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) or (e) as being anticipated by Brucart Puig et al. (US 6,176,154). Further, on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 45-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brucart Puig in view of Cellini (US 5,887,305).

However, as indicated above, independent claim 33 has been amended so as to include all of the limitations of claim 40. Thus, in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 40, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

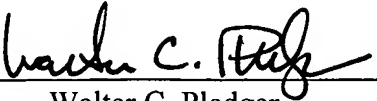
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 33, as well as claims 34-39 and 41-49 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario CELLINI

By: 

Walter C. Pledger

Registration No. 55,540

Attorney for Applicant

WCP/lkd  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
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